

MARBLE HILL BOOS

BRONX 'ANSCHLUSS'

Indignation Runs Wild When 5,000 in 'Sudeten' Area Get Wind of Lyons Proposal

ONLY TWO SEEM IN FAVOR

One, a Woman, Says She Is Willing if the Fuehrer Will Build Her a Park

Bronx Fuehrer James J. Lyons's offer to free the residents of Marble Hill—the "Sudetenland" on the Harlem Ship Canal—from "Manhattan bondage" by "Anschluss" to the Second Bronx evoked a loud and spontaneous chorus of Bronx cheers instead of "heils" yesterday from the "oppressed minority" of the disputed area.

Politically a part of Manhattan but geographically a part of the Bronx as the result of an alteration in the course of the ship canal, Marble Hill, ordinarily a peaceful community of fifty-two acres and 5,000 inhabitants, seethed with the indignant protests of its citizens against the prospect of becoming affiliated with the "Borough of Universities."

On street corners, in bar rooms and in their homes and businesses, the residents of Marble Hill discussed Borough President Lyons's annexation proposal. Sampling of community opinion among business men, property owners, housewives, school children and laborers indicated almost unanimous opposition.

But There Are Two Exceptions

There were two exceptions. Mrs. J. E. Tierney, a housewife, of 1 Jacobus Place, said she would be willing to become a Bronxite if Borough President Lyons would provide a nice, new park in Marble Hill for her young son to play in.

"It really doesn't make any difference," she said. "Everybody thinks Marble Hill is part of the Bronx anyway. If the Bronx can give us a park where my child can play, I say let's join the Bronx. There's an old lady around here who won't let the children play in the street. Anyway, my mother-in-law comes from the Bronx and there's nothing wrong with her."

The other exception was Max Peps, an electrician.

"This ought to be part of the Bronx," he contended. "The Harlem Canal ought to be the natural dividing line. Isn't Manhattan supposed to be surrounded by water? If this place became part of the Bronx, the people would be able to choose their representatives faster. Manhattan is controlled by the downtown politicians. Bronx is noted for its universities, and the people of the Bronx have nothing to be ashamed of."

Mr. Peps, however, proved to have a vested interest. He gave his address as 1,658 Popham Avenue, which is in the Bronx.

Abraham Rosensweig, proprietor of a cigar store at 5,195 Broadway, had a "profitable" reason for wanting to remain in Manhattan. Mr. Rosensweig, who lives at 58 Marble Hill Avenue, said the ambiguous status of Marble Hill gave him the opportunity of winning bets.

"Three years ago," he said, "a sucker bet me \$100 that this was the Bronx because it was on the north side of the canal, and I won the bet. Of course, he didn't know it was in Manhattan."

Joseph Doremus, ticket agent at the Marble Hill station of the New York Central, who knits sweaters and hooks rugs to supplement his income, also said he had won bets on the location of Marble Hill.

"Manhattan and the number 13 are lucky for me," he boasted.

Property Owner Speaks

Daniel F. Kenny of 5 Van Corlear Place, a property owner and former district captain, who has lived in the section for thirty-five years, gave the property owner's side of the story.

"Why should we go over to the Bronx?" he asked. "In the first place, taxes would be raised because the Bronx isn't built up and we would have to pay for what the other fellow gets. I haven't anything against the Bronx, but the Bronx is the Bronx and Manhattan is Manhattan. The Bronx hasn't any life. I'm willing to go to the Bronx to go to church, but that's about all."

"What for?" raged Jeremiah J. Kelly of 2 Marble Hill Avenue, a retired business man who has lived in Marble Hill for twenty-three years. "Ain't the Bronx got enough land already? I say let sleeping dogs lie."

John T. Price of 39 Adrian Avenue, another retired business and property owner, who has lived in the section for twenty-seven years, mentioned high taxes and his dislike for "foreign domination" in objecting to joining the Bronx.

"I'm going down to the Municipal Building and see Isaacs [Borough President Stanley M. Isaacs] about this if it becomes serious," thundered Mrs. Elizabeth Guy of 8 Fort Charles Place, Republican co-leader of Marble Hill. "What do we want with the Bronx?"

"I'll die if they turn this over to the Bronx," wailed 14-year-old Jane Hanley of 3 Van Corlear Place, a student at George Washington High School.

"Manhattan's so exciting," Mary Crawford, 15, of 18 Van Corlear Place sighed.

John Carroll, 18, of 44 Adrian Avenue, also a student at George Washington High School, said: "I want to live in Manhattan for the glory of it."

But Harry Chin, a Chinese laundry man at 111½ 225th Street, when asked about the proposed "Anschluss," replied:

"Isn't this the Bronx?"